



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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29 DECEMBER 1965

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1. Vietnam

At noon EST today Hanoi broadcast a reply, dated 28 December, to Pope Paul's Christmas peace message. Ho's letter is a timely restatement of Hanoi's attitude toward a Vietnam settlement.

He declares that the South Vietnamese will fight as long as the "US aggressors trample" Vietnamese soil. He asserts that the air war against North Vietnam will "never" force Hanoi to capitulate.

Ho tells the Pope that US leaders "want war and not peace," and that talk about unconditional negotiations is a "maneuver" to cover an intensification of the war.

To restore peace in Vietnam, Ho reiterates, the US Government must completely and unconditionally end its bombings and all acts of war against North Vietnam, stop its aggression in South Vietnam, withdraw its troops and armaments from South Vietnam, and let the Vietnamese people settle their internal affairs themselves.

Meantime, Hanoi continues to issue protests over alleged US flights over North Vietnam. This is roughly the same line Hanoi took toward the May halt in air strikes. Peking has not commented on the US action.

2. Vietnam

Neither Hanoi nor Peking has as yet reacted publicly to the sudden announcement in Moscow yesterday that Shelepin would be visiting Hanoi "shortly."

Peking has, however, just issued still another blast at the Soviets and we think its unusually harsh language betrays Chinese ire at the warmth of recent interchanges between Hanoi and Moscow.

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3. North Vietnam

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4. South Vietnam

Premier Ky scoffs at rumors of an early coup try, but he takes seriously the possibility that fanatics might try to assassinate him, his colleagues, and perhaps Ambassador Lodge as well.

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5. Soviet Union

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6. Dominican Republic

Garcia Godoy now says he will make
a national radio address tonight. ☐

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The country has been unusually quiet,
but all parties remain braced to react to
whatever Garcia Godoy comes up with.

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7. Cuba

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8. Rhodesia

The latest British Gallup poll shows the highest degree of support to date for Wilson's policy toward the Rhodesian regime. The poll shows only 14 percent favoring weaker action.

In Zambia, our embassy reports that nervous whites in the copper belt area have begun panic buying despite government assurances that food rationing is not in prospect now. At the same time, Zambian press treatment of the announcement of US participation in the oil airlift has raised exaggerated expectation of an early end to gasoline rationing.

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9. Israel

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